

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220283

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:RAPECK

APPROVDD BY: NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

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R 080054Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220283

FOLLOWING NEW DELHI 12737 ACTION BANGKOK USGAO HONOLULU
SECSTATE NOV 3TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12737

FOR LYONS, MANAGER BANGKOK, THAILAND OFFICE, USGAO FROM
MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP SNAR IN

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VISIT AND SECURITY CLEARANCE

REF: BANGKOK 16782

1. WELCOME YOUR VISIT HERE TO INVESTIGATE EFFECTIVENESS
OF US NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS IN INDIA. THE CONGRESS
IS ENTITLED TO A CLEAR REPORT ON THIS AS IT HAS BEEN ON
OTHER SUBJECTS. I CONTINUE TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE
SUPERIOR GAO STUDY ON OUR EXCESS RUPEE HOLDINGS HERE AS
AN EXAMPLE OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE WAY IN WHICH GAO CAN
ASSIST CONGRESS TOWARD CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. BEFORE YOUR TEAM REACHES INDIA, I WOULD LIKE TO
DESCRIBE BRIEFLY SOMETHING OF THE PROBLEM IN REGARD TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 220283

US PROGRAMS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL WHICH WE HAVE HERE.

THIS MAY BE OLD HAT FOR YOU, SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME.

3. THE DIFFICULTY WE FACE IS IN PRESERVING OUR ACCESS AND LIMITED INFLUENCE WITH A PROUD GOVERNMENT WHICH DEEPLY RESENTS WHAT IT CONSIDERS EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE AND WITH WHICH WE STILL HAVE CHILLY RELATIONS. LAST JUNE 30 THE INDIANS UNILATERALLY TERMINATED OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MAKING IT ABBUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT OUR ADVICE ANY LONGER. THERE CONTINUES TO BE GREAT INDIAN SUSPICION OF ANYTHING RESEMBLING US INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL INDIAN AFFAIRS. IN SHORT, THE CURRENT STATE OF INDO-US RELATION DO NOT PERMIT US TO CARRY OUT AN ACTIVE BILATERAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

4. ALL THIS MEANS WE HAVE VERY LITTLE IN THE WAY OF OPERATIONS IN INDIA. OUR DEA MAN LORENZ HAS A TOTAL BUDGET, OTHER THAN HIS SALARY, OF ABOUT \$4000 A YEAR. WE TALK TO INDIAN OFFICIALS AS WE CAN. LORENZ DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THE POLICE, AND WE HAVE DEVELOPED AN IMPROVING INFORMATIONGATHERING PROGRAM. WE HAVE NOT YET, HOWEVER, FOUND EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT LEAKAGE OF INDIAN OPIUM OUTSIDE SOUTH ASIA. SO FAR, THE LEAKS IN THE INDIAN SYSTEM SEEM LARGELY TO FEED INDIAN USERS.

5. ALTHOUGH OUR EFFORTS MUST REMAIN LOW-KEY, WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING A CAREFUL NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN. AS INDIA PRODUCES ALMOST THE ENTIRE WORLD SUPPLY OF LEGAL OPIUM, AND AS HEROIN IS THE PRIORITY DRUG PROBLEM IN THE US, WE ARE PUTTING ALMOST ALL OUR EMPHASIS IN EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INDIAN CONTROLS ON OPIUM, AND SEEKING TO IMPROVE THEM. EVERY TIME ANYONE ON OUR SIDE SUGGESTS TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR CONTROLS MAY BE INADEQUATE, THEY WILL PUBLICLY REPLY THERE IS NO PROBLEM TO DISCUSS. UNOFFICIALLY SOME OFFICIALS ADMIT SOME INTERNAL LEAKAGE. BUT THEY ALSO SAY NONE REACHES THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE SUCH LEVERAGE OUT HERE, SINCE WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY AID TO WITHHOLD AND THE INDIANS ARE STILL SMARTING FROM OUR CUTOFF DURING THE 1971 WAR. THE INDIANS HAVE NOT EVEN ACCEPTED OUR OFFERS FOR TRAINING, EITHER IN THE US OR HERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 220283

6. NONETHELESS, I BELIEVE OUR PEOPLE HERE DO REMARKABLY WELL. WHAT LORENZ AND THE REST OF US ARE TRYING TO DO IS GRADUALLY BUILD THE CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT OF MIDDLE-LEVEL INDIAN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS. IF WE CAN USE WORKING-LEVEL INDIAN OFFICIALS, BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF OUR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELIABILITY, WE MAY ULTIMATELY BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THE INDIAN CONTROL SYSTEMS. WE HAVE A LONG

WAY TO GO, HOWEVER, BEFORE WE CAN INSTITUTE ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OR TRAINING PROGRAMS. I CANNOT SEE A CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AS EVER BEING FEASIBLE HERE, SINCE INTERNATIONAL DRUG COMPANIES ARE PLEADING WITH THE INDIANS TO SATISFY THE INCREASING WORLDWIDE SHORTAGE OF MEDICINAL OPIATES BY GROWING MORE POPPIES.

7. IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED BILATERAL RESULTS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET HERE, WE INCLINE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY ANSWER IS A MULTILATERAL EFFORT SUCH AS THE CND FORUM AT GENEVA TO GET INDIA TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROLS. WE ALSO BELIEVE INDIA MIGHT BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO MULTILATERAL TRAINING PROBLEMS ALTHOUGH WE MAY FINALLY BE MAKING SOME PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL EFFORTS. WE ARE WORKING ON THIS.

8. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR TEAM. WE WILL BRIEF IT ON THE SITUATION HERE, TRY TO ARRANGE A VISIT TO THE POPPY-GROWING AREA, ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS, AND MAKE AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION RECORDS OF OUR OPERATIONS. WE WILL WARN YOUR TEAM ABOUT THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE GOI TO WHAT THEY CONSIDER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AS WE DO NOT WISH TO SET BACK OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS A BETTER BILATERAL PROGRAM. I AM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD BE BEST THAT YOUR TEAM AVOID ANY ADVANCE PUBLICITY REGARDING ITS VISIT HERE.

9. LET ME REPEAT: YOUR TEAM WILL BE WELCOME HERE JUST AS LONG AS IT WISHES TO STAY. PERSONALLY, I DOUBT THAT YOUR PEOPLE WILL FIND A BUSY THREE-WEEK SCHEDULE HERE. BUT NOW I AM GETTING INTO MATTERS YOU UNDERSTAND FAR BETTER THAN I.

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PAGE 04 STATE 220283

10. WARM REGARDS.
MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, VISITS, SECURITY CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE220283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:RAPECK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731146/aaaabhut.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 16782
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOTICE OF VISIT AND SECURITY CLEARANCE
TAGS: AFSP, SNAR, IN
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005